

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20 wherein the soluble polyethylene terephthalate polymers and ethanediol are recovered from the product mixture by filtration.
3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the filtration is high pressure filtration.
4. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 2 wherein a material selected from the group consisting of activated carbons and mixtures of activated carbons and activated clays is added to the product mixture prior to filtration.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 21 wherein the products are recovered from the solution by filtration.
7. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein a material selected from the group consisting of activated carbon and mixtures of activated carbon and activated clay is added to the product mixture prior to filtration.
8. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 21 wherein the products are recovered by density separation.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously Presented) The contaminant free composition obtained from the process of claim 20.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Currently Amended) A process for removing contaminants from PET without the formation of embrittled PET during the process consisting essentially of:
 - (a) mixing ethanediol with unembrittled PET which contains contaminants at a temperature about the boiling point of ethanediol for a time sufficient to convert the polyethylene terephthalate components to polyethylene terephthalate polymers which are soluble in the ethanediol and form bis (hydroxyethyl) terephthalate and produce a product mixture thereof with insoluble material ~~and from which no embrittled PET is recovered~~;
 - (b) recovering the soluble polyethylene terephthalate polymers and bis (hydroxyethyl) terephthalate and ethanediol from the mixture.
21. (Currently Amended) A process for treating a composition without the formation of embrittled PET during the process consisting essentially of unembrittled contaminated polyethylene terephthalate components to remove the contaminants therefrom comprising:
 - (a) reacting the unembrittled polyethylene terephthalate components with ethanediol at a temperature at or about the boiling point of ethanediol for a period of time sufficient to transesterify the polyethylene terephthalate components and form a solution containing products selected from the group consisting of soluble polyethylene terephthalate polymers, bis(hydroxy ethyl) terephthalate ester and mixtures thereof ~~without recovering embrittled therefrom~~;
 - (b) recovering the products from the solution; and

(c) treating the recovered product at a pressure and temperature and for a period of time sufficient to hydrolyze the recovered products and produce an ethanediol solution and crystals of terephthalic acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 20 wherein the PET is in the form of oligomers having chain lengths of about 200 repeat units.

23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 22 wherein the PET is converted to oligomers having about 1 to 5 repeat units.